



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### FORESTRY COMMISSION: MINOR TIMBER DAMAGE FROM GUSTAV

Jackson, MS—According to early reports from foresters with the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Hurricane Gustav caused very minor damage to timber in the storm-impacted counties of south and southwest Mississippi. The commission will conduct a thorough damage assessment once the weather clears, allowing for safe aerial reconnaissance over remote areas of forested land.

“The Forestry Commission is actively engaged in hurricane recovery efforts,” said State Forester Charlie Morgan. In conjunction with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Mississippi National Guard, the commission’s incident management team is currently managing an ice/water/food supply distribution site at Camp Shelby, south of Hattiesburg. The commission is also providing assistance at the Emergency Operations Center at Pearl.

In addition to agency personnel who live in south Mississippi, the Forestry Commission has 60 employees from north and central locations ready to serve on chainsaw and dozer strike teams if additional resources are needed. The commission works with local emergency coordinators in opening access routes for emergency responders. The Forestry Commission also conducts missions assigned from MEMA that support recovery efforts at the local level.

The Forestry Commission has over 30 foresters and technicians ready to serve on debris assessment teams, if called on by FEMA/MEMA.

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